

M A J AN O, MEMBER OF THE JRG. TO REMOVE HEM FROM THE JUNTA. THEY BELIEVE THAT THE MOST LOGICAL PLAN WOULD BE TO ALSO REMOVE GUTTERREZ AND THE THREE CIVILIAN

MEMBERS OF THE JRG. THEY SUPPORT A GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD BE HEADED EITHER BY VIDES ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

SAID THAT THESE RIGHTIST MILITARY OFFICERS OCCUPY MANY KEY COMMAND POSITIONS AND HE DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER HE AND THE OTHER LEADERS OF THE MILITARY CAN STOP THIS COUP MOVEMENT, SHOULD THE RIGHTIST PLOTTERS DECIDE TO GO THROUGH WITH IT.

IN ADDITION, A SENIOR ARMY OFFICER WHO MAY HAVE BEEN AWARE HIS REMARKS WOULD REACH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SAID ON 30 NOVEMBER 1980 THAT THIS COUP MOVEMENT WAS QUITE STRONG, AND THAT IT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY SHOULD VIDES INDICATE HIS SUPPORT FOR IT. THIS OFFICER SAID THAT VIDES IS THE KEY FIGURE IN THIS PLAN BECAUSE HE HAS ALMOST UNIVERSAL SUPPORT AND RESPECT AMONG MILITARY OFFICERS, MORE SO THAN ANY OTHER MILITARY LEADER. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE COUP MOVEMENT WAS SO STRONG THAT IT MIGHT GO FORWARD EVEN WITHOUT VIDES' SUPPORT, AND HE AGREED WITH GUTIERREZ' ASSESSMENT THAT SENIOR MILITARY LEADERS MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO PREVENT THIS COUP EVEN IF THEY TRIED, SINCE THE RIGHTIST MILITARY OFFICERS ARE IN A DOMINATING POSITION WITHIN THE MILITARY.)

COMMENT: IT IS CRUCIAL THAT VIDES CASANOVA HAS NOT GIVEN HIS CONSENT TO THIS COUP ATTEMPT. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT VIDES CASANOVA TOLD ME APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS AGO THAT HE WOULD NEVER BE A PARTY TO SUCH A MOVEMENT. CIRCUMSTANCES OF COURSE CHANGE. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THAT THIS ATTEMPT TO REPLACE THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP CANNOT SUCCEED WITHOUT VIDES CASANOVA'S ACTIVE PARTICIPATION.)